

Vocational Education

Mission

To provide services that prepare Indiana students for employment and further training in high skill, high wage careers.

Summary of Activities

Vocational education in Indiana is provided through a comprehensive system of education, training, and employment. The Indiana Commission on Vocational and Technical Education has responsibility for setting policy and developing and overseeing a long-range state plan for vocational and technical education, which is implemented by the **Department of Workforce Development (DWD)** and the **Department of Education (DOE)**.



State funds are distributed to local schools through the school tuition support appropriation, with schools receiving supplemental funds based on vocational course offerings and enrollment. The DWD distributes federal vocational education funds under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. The DOE Office of Career and Technical Education provides support to other workforce development initiatives, such as state and federal Technical Preparation (Tech Prep) programs, technology-based instructional programs, and partnerships with local businesses that provide work-based learning opportunities for students planning to enter the workforce directly after high school and for those interested in pursuing further education and training programs. Tech Prep is a sequence of courses in career fields that consists of two years or more of higher education or an apprenticeship program.

Schools use funds from this range of sources to support programs in agriculture education, business and marketing education, counseling and career guidance activities, family and consumer sciences, trade and industrial education, and health occupations, among others. A variety of technical assistance activities, particularly in the areas of curricula and staff development, are provided for vocational teachers and administrators.

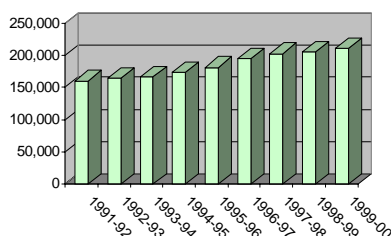
External Factors

Technological advances in the workplace and in higher education present constantly changing goals and expectations for students who graduate from Indiana high schools. These advances require frequent updates to vocational education curriculum and classroom strategies. The workplace demands more today than a strong back and a good work ethic—it demands critical thinkers capable of applying technical knowledge.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

CISCO Academy is a new, school-based program that offers high-tech training to high school students. Of the 750 CISCO Academy sites in the nation, Indiana has 146. Programs offered through state support of vocational education prepare high school students for the demands of the workplace and for the demands of two- and four-year postsecondary institutions. In particular, one program called High Schools That Work has programs at 21 sites that challenge teachers to “teach the rest what we teach the best”, resulting in higher academic attainment for students and higher pay as they enter the workforce.

Vocational Education Enrollment



Fifty-six teachers have been trained through the Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) program. This will result in Indiana high schools becoming certification sites that allow students to qualify for MOUS certification. This will allow students to leave high school with both a diploma and a highly portable MOUS Certification in Word, Access, Powerpoint, and Excel, all valued programs in the workplace.

2,680 secondary students have been awarded Certificates of Technical Achievement -- portable, updatable professional certifications developed collaboratively by the DWD, employers, and educators for both students and workers. 1,170 students updated their CTAs, while 493 incumbent workers received CTAs and 157 updated existing certificates.

Plans for the Biennium

Four Strategies provide the framework for the Five-Year State Plan for Vocational and Technical Education over the period from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2004 (FY00 – 04):

- ◆ Provide career awareness and career preparation for all learners.
- ◆ Develop, implement and utilize state-recognized skill standards and other approved systems of certification.
- ◆ Provide professional and curricular development, including:
 - Teaching the way students learn;
 - Integrating occupational, employability and academic skills based on business and industry identified skill standards;
 - Reducing gender bias and stereotyping;
- ◆ Provide a quality improvement system for vocational and technical education.



The number of High Schools That Work sites statewide will be expanded so that vocational and technical students can complete both a sequence of rigorous academic courses and occupational training. To sustain and improve existing programs, technical assistance and professional development support will be provided to local programs. Current Tech Prep programs will be incorporated as a part of each high school's improvement plan and build upon the professional linkages that exist with employers in health, agriculture, and technical fields.

Vocational education stakeholders continue to develop an improved method for distributing state vocational education funding that will provide incentives to local schools to offer education in vocational areas that correspond to high-demand, high-wage jobs in the new economy. Indiana has recently joined the Marketing Education Consortium, which will be a part of curriculum development activities that teach students about E-commerce. This program will result in students attaining skills in web design, marketing, and retailing.

